

LAW ENFORCEMENT MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE

INTERPRETATION OF NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION

**SUBMITTED FOR FULFILLMENT
OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR
MODULE II**

by

WILLIAM JOHNSON

**KATY POLICE DEPARTMENT
KATY, TEXAS**

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STATEMENT OF RESEARCH PURPOSE

The main purpose of this report is to stress the importance of precise interpretation of nonverbal communication by law enforcement officers. The correct interpretation of this behavior can be essential to solving cases correctly and in some instances can be crucial to the officer's safety.

In addition, this report will identify many types of specific nonverbal behavior used by suspects. Learning these "body language" cues is often difficult and takes time and practice, but is important to the daily existence of a police officer.

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

My sources for this report have included many authors that deal specifically with the interrogation process or nonverbal communication. Some authors have dealt with communication as a whole including both verbal and nonverbal communication cues.

My report has limited the research to the forms of nonverbal communication used mainly by suspects as a tool of deception and the ability of officers to detect this deception in the interrogation process. It will include the issues of paralanguage, kinesics, and proxemics, as well as the representational system of perception, gestures, posture, color, and cultural communication.

STATEMENT OF PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

In doing research for my report, I have examined the literature, textbooks, and periodicals of many authors, experienced police officers and investigators, and psychiatrists to provide a larger sampling of nonverbal communication cues and ways of identifying them in interrogations.

I have used many quotes from these materials and provided examples to enable the reader the ability to clearly understand the importance of nonverbal communication skills. I have also included personal observations and experience in the forms nonverbal communication that I have observed in my years in the law enforcement field.

INTERPRETATION OF NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION

Police officers must be familiar with verbal and nonverbal communication in order to communicate effectively. It does not matter whether the officer is communicating with the public or his/her staff. His or her actions, tone of voice, posture, and general attitude, in addition to what he or she is saying, sends information to the receiver. Often the officer's actions send stronger messages than his or her actual voice. These actions cause the receiver to conclude whether the officer is interested, concerned, professional, and truthful. Police officers must also have the ability to observe and understand the nonverbal behavior of others. This knowledge is extremely helpful when interrogating persons and in some cases can be lifesaving; therefore, it is essential that officers receive specific training in the communication process.

One authority, Albert Mehrabian, believes that words convey a very small part of the message. He argues that 93 percent of the total impact of any given message consists of nonverbal factors. If you carefully analyze the messages that others communicate, it may surprise you how much emphasis is placed on the nonverbal aspects of communication. (Huseman 1991)

Nonverbal communication usually occurs with verbal communication and always as a part of a situation that gives context. Listeners should be cautious of placing too much importance on a single, isolated nonverbal cue until they have compared it to other verbal cues, to the verbal message, to the immediate situation, and of the larger environment and culture. There are subtle signals that can alert you to the vast gulf between what people say and what they mean.

People have learned how to hide true feelings by choosing roles and acting out the various parts. Rarely do they turn a perfect performance. Also, rarely does the person who attempts to interpret body language turn a perfect performance. Usually body language signals alone should be enough to alert someone that another person is lying. Lying can succeed only if a person is blind and deaf to the abundant amount of unintentional information flowing in to us.

Researchers divide nonverbal communication into three major categories. The first involves voice qualities. The other two are communication through body language and communication through space.

Today, one of the most important skills necessary to conduct an effective interrogation is the ability to understand and interpret nonverbal communication. Nonverbal communication has not changed much in 3,000 years, mainly because people exhibit certain constant, spontaneous, and involuntary behaviors when under stressful conditions. Body movements, body positions, facial expressions, eye contact, and paralanguage reflect these nonverbal behaviors. Interpreting a subject's nonverbal behavior properly could possibly point investigators toward new leads and toward a successful resolution of a case.

Your ancestor's passed to you the reflex response known as the fight or flight syndrome. This phenomenon developed to enhance those bodily functions needed for survival during a crisis while muting many of the irrelevant ones. When a suspect is not free to leave, they may conclude that the only way to retaliate is to deceive successfully. When these deceptions are questioned, the person will get tense and nervous which causes their bodies to respond, giving off signals or behaviors

suggesting possible deception. These signals include:

- * Adrenalin and sugar are released into the blood stream
- * Pulse and breathing rates increase
- * Sweat glands activate
- * Pupils dilate
- * Salivary glands shut down
- * Digestion ceases

Investigators, when they encounter the guilty, represent the modern version of the saber tooth tiger. They pose a threat, and this threat produces the effects developed through evolution. Internally, the suspect's body prepares to run or fight. However, outwardly the guilty must mask this preparation. They cannot run, fight or even show any indication of wanting to do so. This conflict produces its own set of symptoms that if observed, can provide much insight for the investigator.

Much research has been conducted and many volumes written regarding the specific actions that indicate deception. Numerous nervous mannerisms may indicate stress. All of them result from suspects' efforts to appear unconcerned, some of these often subtle indicators will usually appear.

However, interviewers do not have to commit to memory a long list of deceptive behaviors. In fact, some investigators suggest that just as statistics do not apply to an individual, neither do these behaviors necessarily indicate deception by all who display them. Persistence in the interrogation process, coupled with self-confidence, is another key ingredient to obtaining a confession. In this regard, nonverbal behavior

often makes a difference. Good interrogators should be aware of the “body language” they display. Their gestures should exhibit self-confidence and sincerity.

Likewise, an accurate reading of the offender’s body language is also essential when themes are established in an interrogation. An upward glance, with eyes cast to the right, or the placing of a hand on the chin may indicate that the offender is seriously considering a particular theme.

People experience few problems or anxieties when they speak the truth. But, when people lie, the mind and body send out involuntary signals that, when properly interpreted, can indicate deception. The “language” of nonverbal behavior is complex and dynamic. And, although a good deal of time, effort, and practice is necessary to become proficient at the technique of reading nonverbal behavior, the investment can be beneficial.

The three major categories of nonverbal behavior that will be discussed in this report are paralanguage, kinesics, and proxemics. Paralanguage is the study of voice tone, pitch and inflection. Kinesics is the basis for the study of nonverbal behavior. It includes behavior that deals with the face, eyes, mouth, and body. Proxemics, in nonverbal communication, is the study and understanding of personal and social space. This report will also discuss how color interpretation and cultural differences effect nonverbal communication.

PARALANGUAGE -- HOW YOU SAY IT

Of the three major categories of nonverbal communication, paralanguage is

most akin to verbal communication. Language deals with what is said; paralanguage deals with how it is said.

Paralanguage can be better understood by looking at voice qualities, including volume, rate, rhythm, pitch, and resonance. Everyone at one time or another has been made aware of the quality known as rate -- how fast or slow someone is speaking. Depending on the other messages that are being communicated, an increase in rate could indicate anger, impatience, or anxiety from the person sending the message. A decrease in rate can indicate thoughtfulness or a reflective attitude; on the other hand, it can indicate boredom or lack of interest.

Volume is another voice quality that frequently conveys meaning, especially in conjunction with rate. If someone speaks softly, you might feel somewhat at ease. But if someone speaks loudly, you would feel disturbed and ill at ease.

The voice qualities of rate, volume, pitch, and resonance in combination with vocal qualifiers cause paralanguage to become most apparent. Vocal qualifiers include intensity (overloud to oversoft), pitch height (overhigh to overflow), extent (extreme drawl to extreme clipping), and accent. Accent was demonstrated earlier by changing the emphasis on words in a sentence. (Knapp 1978)

The major function of paralanguage is to express emotions. Several researchers have demonstrated that it is possible to communicate various emotions solely with paralanguage. People make sure that meanings are communicated solely as the result of vocal cues rather than vocabulary. Several more recent studies have demonstrated that paralanguage (how we say something) does convey emotions. These studies indicate that some emotions are more accurately transmitted than

others. Frequently, it is easier to convey impatience, fear, and anger than satisfaction and admiration. (Fairbanks and Pronovost 1939)

There are times during an interrogation when what the subject says is less important than how it is said. When properly analyzed, variations can indicate deception. Studies have shown that active emotions, such as anger and fear, can be characterized by rapid speech, loud volume, and high pitch. Sadness or depression can be characterized by a slower rate of speech, lower pitch, and lower volume, which is conducive to passive emotions. Grief can be characterized as speech that is greatly interrupted by pause time, while anxiety creates hindrance of speech. When suspects are deceptive, they will be less fluent and will stutter more. Their answers will slow, be less plausible, longer, contain more fillers, and more broken and repeated phrases. Attempted deception will also cause the subject to become nervous. This nervousness often results in a higher voice pitch, more “breakers”, a slower rate of speech, longer hesitation before answering, and less volunteered information. (Brougham 1992)

It should be noted that exceptions to these applications exist. For example, people who are under the influence of drugs or alcohol, professional or habitual criminals, and people exhibiting antisocial behavior may not exhibit normal nonverbal behavior.

KINESICS -- COMMUNICATING THROUGH BODY MOVEMENT

The second major category of nonverbal communication is kinesics, which

means communicating through body movement. Over the years, scientists have learned that facial expressions, gestures, posture, and other body movements transmit messages that either reinforce or contradict the spoken message. The theory of kinesics is the process of observing and evaluating nonverbal behavior which is exhibited or not exhibited by certain body movements.

The face and eyes are the most expressive means of body communication, although experts have concurred that the face alone is the least helpful in the interpretation of deception because it is the easiest to control. Dale Leathers has found that 10 basic classes of meaning can be communicated by facial expression.

The following list are the basic classes of facial expression:

- | | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| 1. Happiness | 6. Disgust |
| 2. Surprise | 7. Contempt |
| 3. Fear | 8. Interest |
| 4. Anger | 9. Bewilderment |
| 5. Sadness | 10. Determination |

The ability to interpret facial meaning is an important part of communication, because facial expressions can facilitate or hamper feedback. (Leathers 1976)

The face is capable of showing more than one emotion at a time. It can show happiness in the mouth, anger in the eyes, and a surprise in the eyebrows and forehead all at the same time. The face conveys emotion, while the body conveys the

intensity of motion. (Evans 1990)

Looking someone directly in the eyes is comparable to looking into the person's soul. The eyes play an especially important role in facial communication, in fact, studies by Evans have shown that ninety percent of all facial information comes from expressions of the eyes. Eye contact is one of the most powerful forms of nonverbal communication. Authority relationships as well as intimate relationships are frequently initiated and maintained with eye contact. Looking directly at your listener is usually thought to convey openness and honesty; people usually believe it is easier to trust someone who looks right at them. On the other hand, they tend to distrust those who don't look directly at them; less confidence is attributed to those who avoid eye contact. Prolonged eye contact can signal admiration, while brief contact usually means anxiety. Direct eye contact of more than 10 seconds can create some discomfort and anxiety.

There are three representational systems of perception in dealing with someone's eyes. The three systems of perception are visual, auditory, and kinesthetics or feelers. This concept is somewhat complex and differs from some of the above mentioned eye signals. It is the way you perceive and code the memories you bring back from your perceptions. Observations and insights into this process can be gained by watching the different ways our eyes move as we perceive and remember. Deviations from these observations reflect stress and nervousness which can be associated with deception.

VISUALS - When people are in situations where they tend to use their eyes instead of their ears, they are in the visual mode of perception. Visual persons tend to select pictures from memory when they are trying to interpret what is going on around them. Visual person's eyes will look upward usually to the right or left at forty-five degree angles. They will sometimes defocus straight ahead. Visual persons become irritable when others stare at them and don't permit them to look upward or defocus. Visual perceiving persons can recount colors, shapes, or descriptions with remarkable accuracy.

AUDITORIES - The auditory person's eye movements will be horizontal, from side-to-side, looking either to the left or to the right. They may also tend to look downward at a forty-five degree angle to the left. Auditories are often proud of their voices and trust only sounds. They tend to breathe in the middle of their chest and speak in even rhythmic tempo. They can remember hearing a person's name, but cannot recall their face. They tend to use phrases that involve hearing or sound.

KINESTHETICS - Kinesthetics think before they speak to allow them the time to check their feelings. They trust in feelings more than words or sounds. Their eye movements when they are remembering is at a forty-five degree angle, downward to the right. They have trouble remembering person's names or faces, but they recall whether they liked the person or not.

When interviewing persons, begin by asking informational questions that require the person to think or remember. The person may then exhibit one or more of

these representational systems. You will only be able to observe it for a brief moment, but it will be clearly visible. Most often, they may have a predominant system. During interrogations or interviews, if the person displays a predominant system and changes or departs from that predominant system, he or she may be exhibiting signs of deception.

The two sides of a person's face are not quite identical. Such facial asymmetries become even more pronounced when a person makes a facial expression. When facial expressions are spontaneous, muscle movements tend to be about the same on both sides of the face. But, when muscle movements are deliberate, such as when a subject is deceitful, the muscles on the left side of the face move more than those on the right. An astute observer may be able to use these facial asymmetries and expressions as clues to determine whether a person is being sincere. (Goleman and Freedman 1981)

This difference between spontaneous and deliberate facial expressions seems to be due to how the brain regulates facial muscles. Spontaneous facial movements bypass the brain's cognitive centers. But, when some people consciously move a part of their faces, the signals to move the muscles go through the cortex, the part of the brain that makes conscious decisions. The part of the cortex that is involved in this process appears to have stronger ties to the left side of the body; hence, the greater movements of facial muscles on the left.

In addition to asymmetrical facial indicators, the face can also reveal some very good clues when combined with other nonverbal behavior. For example, when an individual is being deceptive, internal stress will cause the eye-blink rate to increase

significantly from one blink every few seconds to one to two blinks per second.

Internal stress may also cause the eyes to open wider than normal. Avoiding direct eye contact or looking away can provide additional clues to indicate deception.

An experienced officer will frequently notice the skin color of the person's head, face, and neck in some individuals. It tends to become paler or redder during periods of deception.

The increase in the normal flow of perspiration is an indication of heightened nervousness and tension produced by the increased activity of normal body functions. The most noticeable locations are between the eyes and on the upper lip where the perspiration will first appear and become noticeable on the forehead, where perspiration will appear in little beads of moisture just below the hairline, the palms of the hands which exude perspiration, and in the area of the armpits. (Aubry and Caputo 1980)

GESTURES - Another important element of kinesic communication is the use of gestures. The language of gesture is usually thought of as hand and arm movements, but the entire body is capable of gesture. There are five types of body gestures:

Emblems. Emblems are thought of as sign language and are the equivalent of

words or phrases

Illustrators. Directly tied to verbal language, these gestures illustrate the words a speaker is saying.

Regulators. Regulators control oral communication by alerting the sender to the need to hurry up, slow down, or repeat something.

Adaptors. This type of gesture is one that people have little control over. Stifling a yawn or clasping the hands to the face in fear are adaptor gestures.

Affect Displays. These indicate emotional states, such as anger or embarrassment, and usually occur in facial expressions.

Such gestures such as pounding one's fists or stomping one's feet reinforce verbal messages. Gestures may sometimes even replace words, such as when individuals nod their heads up and down in lieu of the verbal response "yes".

Hands and arms are also expressive features and often provide critical insight into a person's feelings. Most notable are folded arms. If someone's arms are folded loosely, it may be indicative of relaxation. However, when arms are folded firmly and high across the chest, this may signify refusal or defiance. If this gesture is difficult to interpret, the interviewer should look at the subject's hands to see if they are relaxed or fist-like.

Hand movements, in which the hands are rotated at the wrists, usually indicate uncertainty. When a person is being deceptive, these hand movements decrease and

are replaced by shrugs. Additionally, rubbing one's palms is considered a gesture of expectation, while strumming or tapping the fingers is indicative of nervousness and of deceit. A person making a hand-to-chest gesture is generally recognized as sincere and honest, while a person making a hand-to-mouth gesture is communicating self-doubt or may be lying.

Truthful persons tend to gesture away from their body, while liars tend to gesture toward themselves. It has also been found that grooming gestures and clothing adjustments that keep the hands busy may allow the subject a delay in answering questions and allow release of pent-up anxiety. However, although these tendencies are observed easily, they should be considered as only part of a subject's overall assessment.

POSTURE - A person's general posture, even without specific gestures, communicates meaning. Posture frequently gives clues to self-confidence or status. Posture is also a way to demonstrate interest. Several researchers have concluded that when you lean forward, you demonstrate interest. Sitting back, may communicate lack of distrust. On a daily basis, people need to understand what is being communicated to them by posture and gestures. Mark Knapp has provided a useful classification for major types of body movement. (Knapp 1978) The following are the major classifications of body movement:

Attitudes. Everyone likes or dislikes particular elements in the environment. Many times these attitudes are reflected in body movement. The degree of like or

dislike can be seen in terms of general body orientation by noting if the communicator's legs and shoulders are turned toward or away from the other person. When the body is turned fully toward the other person, it may indicate liking, whereas the body turned away may indicate a degree of dislike.

Status. Individuals in superior roles or positions have status. They frequently keep their heads raised when communicating with others. Those in lower or subordinate roles often lower their heads and shoulders when speaking.

Affective states of moods. These occur in various degrees of emotional conditions and are associated with body movements. The head and face convey information about anger, joy, and happiness; other body movements convey the intensity of the particular emotional state.

Approval seeking. People may nod their heads and smile to secure approval from another person. In general, their bodies are more active than when they are not seeking approval. Frequently, this type of bodily activity can be observed by watching a subordinate present an idea to a superior.

Inclusiveness. Inclusiveness involves cues as to whose side you are on. The positioning of the body, especially the way the legs are pointed, will communicate that you are on the person's side. It can also indicate whether someone is open-minded or close-minded to the other person's ideas.

Interaction markers. Certain body movements naturally accompany particular oral language. Frequently, at the end of a statement, a person will move the head, eyelids, or hands downward. At the end of questioning statements, these movements will tend to be upward. Other types of interaction markers include leaning back when listening and leaning forward when speaking.

The position of the head can give the interviewer insight on how comfortable and cooperative the person will be. If the head is tilted, the person is usually being truthful, cooperative, and interested. If the chin is up and the head forward with no tilt, the person may become, if not already, unyielding, aggressive, and angry. If their person hangs his head toward his chest, he is exhibiting signs of distress, boredom, or possibly lying. This is also a sign that the person is at a point to possibly confess or give up.

PROXEMICS -- COMMUNICATING WITH SPACE

The third major category of nonverbal communications is proxemics, or how people communicate with space. How close or far they stand in relation to another person, where they sit in a room, or how they arrange furniture in a room has a real impact on communication. The physical distance people maintain in their encounters with others is known as personal space. In order to communicate effectively, everyone needs to understand and comprehend the importance of social and personal space or proxemics.

An invasion of an individual's personal space produces anxiety, and most people find it increasingly difficult to lie when they feel crowded. Therefore, police officers adeptly manipulate spatial relations when conducting interrogations will most likely enjoy greater success in ferreting out the truth. (Pritchett 1993)

There are four categories of personal space:

Intimate distance ranges from actual physical contact to about 18 inches from another person. Communication and interaction within this distance are intimate activities. Confidential information is often communicated within the intimate distance. The major form of intimate contact is the handshake. Most respond positively to a firm handshake and negatively to a limp handshake.

Personal distance ranges from 18 inches to four feet. Interaction in this zone includes casual and friendly conversation.

Social distance ranges from four feet to about eight feet. Communication in this zone often occurs in the business setting.

Public distance ranges from 12 feet to the limits of visibility and hearing. Communication at public distance is considered public speaking.

Successful interviewers create a high level anxiety by beginning an interview at

a comfortable distance while discussing general information. Then, the interviewer moves closer to the subject during questioning and backs off during desired responses. This practice results in the desired effect of mentally programming an individual to cooperate with the interviewer's line of questioning.

In regards to the concept of proxemics, it can be very important when setting up for an interrogation. The interview room's chairs should be properly positioned close together to provide the officer with a full view of the suspect while invading that person's private space. The room should be free of all distractions. The officer should pay close attention to the person while observing his or her reactions, motions, and body movements. The officer should sit close to the subject and carry out a conversation not related to the investigation or the subject matter to get truthful responses while observing all nonverbal behavior. Any questions relating to background information may be used to attempt to get truthful responses.

The officer with experience in nonverbal communication or body language is familiar with movements of the body in conjunction with stress which may be a sign that the person is being deceitful. When a person is challenged as to whether he or she is lying, their emotional state turns to anger and hate. They are not free to leave and they know the only way to survive is to lie successfully. When the lies are questioned, the interviewed person will get tense and nervous which causes their bodies to respond, giving off signals. These signals are associated with deception and this information assists the investigator in discovering the truth. (Harrison 1986)

These signals are intended to give the officer knowledge of when a person is being deceptive by placing the person in a tense and stressful environment. However,

it must be reminded that these signals are not intended to be used alone to determine deception.

COLOR

Another major affect on communication is color. Some evidence indicates that a relationship exists between specific moods and color. The colors around people affect them. In rooms with warm or hot colors, such as reds or oranges, people are likely to be more creative, defiant, contrary, hostile or stimulated. Rooms with cooler colors, such as blues, will likely engender solitude, deep thinking, and detachment. The following colors set the following mood tone:

Red, Orange, Black: Exciting, stimulating, distressed, disturbed, upset, protective, defending, defiant, contrary, hostile, powerful, strong, masterful

Blue, Green, Purple: Secure, comfortable, tender, soothing, protective, calm, peaceful, serene, dignified, stately

Yellow: Cheerful, jovial, joyful

(Huseman 1991)

People are taught, over many years, how to manipulate verbal communication. Some become quite adept at lying with words. However, few can manipulate their nonverbal behavior much beyond such obvious changes as clothing or the surrounding environment. If they are afraid, they find it hard to turn off nonverbal messages of perspiration, white knuckles, or a cracking voice.

CULTURAL COMMUNICATION

The United States continues to draw persons from different cultures due to the vast freedoms that we offer. It is very important for police officers to understand the communication patterns of persons from different cultures to enable them to accurately interpret their nonverbal behavior as well as their verbal behavior. Implications of not understanding foreign customs and languages have enormous ramifications. Culture is a function of a society's values, religious traditions, decision-making patterns, and language. It includes everything that a society thinks, says, does, and makes. Body contact causes the most problems in the identification of nonverbal behavior with persons of different cultures. Some cultures recognize body contact, closeness, and frequent gesturing as part of their communication process.

In many countries, religion directly influences the manner in which everything is conducted. Every culture has its own holy days. The religious beliefs influence their morals and ethics in everyday matters.

Most people from foreign countries have mind-set thinking about the traits of Americans. They feel that Americans are individualistic, arrogant, aggressive, money oriented, intolerant of silence, preoccupied with time, informal, and unwilling to learn another country's language. English is spoken by only about 10 percent of the world's population. Even if a global language were to exist, cultural differences would preclude complete understanding among people. Communicating effectively in English with people who do not share your culture, or from whom American English is a second language, requires careful use of the language. Idioms, jargon, and

acronyms are lost in the translation when speaking to a non-English speaking person.

Luckily, most of what is communicated between people is transmitted through words. The bulk of what is communicated is a function of interpreted physiology, both body language and tone of voice. Individuals who are skilled at observing and interpreting the physiology of others, and who can adjust their viewpoints in such a way as to accommodate the perspectives of others, will find that they are able to communicate rather effectively with people with whom they have no common language. However, this task is complicated not just by the absence of a shared vocabulary, but also by the different meanings that common body movements can have.

The people of the “contact cultures” of Latin America, Southern Europe, and the Arab states touch more often and stand much closer than do Northern Europeans. North Americans fall somewhere between these two extremes. Visitors to foreign cultures can also be startled by the different types of touches. In the Middle East or Southern Europe, two men might walk with their hands clasped or with arms about each other. Westerners would regard this behavior acceptable for women but not for men. Without knowing what is an acceptable distance in a culture, people can easily violate a social norm or misinterpret the behavior of others as being either distant and cold or as being overly aggressive. (Marsh 1988)

Culture influences what is considered acceptable or expected eye contact. People in the contact cultures not only stand physically closer; they also tend to exchange more eye contact. Although Americans view direct eye contact as a sign of power and honesty, they feel that unbroken eye contact is too aggressive to be used in

normal interactions. They may interpret the directed gaze of Latin Americans as being threatening or insulting. At the same time, a Southern European may view a North American's broken eye contact as insincere or impolite.

CONCLUSION

Nonverbal communication is a very essential part of law enforcement. The ability of an officer to distinguish between truth and lies is often the only way to determine a suspect's guilt or innocence. All types of communication require complete and total concentration on the officer's part in order to make a clear judgment as to the suspect's truthfulness. Often, many hours of training are involved to familiarize an officer with all of the cues emitted by a suspect's nonverbal behavior.

In an interrogation, an officer must combine nonverbal behavior with the words actually spoken by a suspect. Verbal and nonverbal communication go hand-in-hand. Even when a suspect has little to offer in terms of words, usually their body language will be enough to alert the officer if the person is attempting to lie.

The three major categories of nonverbal communication -- paralanguage, kinesics, and proxemics -- identify most types of nonverbal behavior used by suspects. Learning this behavior can help the officer decipher what the suspect means, but can also be used by the officer to send messages to the suspect. The officer's own actions can show interest, concern, or intimidation toward the suspect. In an interrogation, knowing where to stand, how to stand, and how to position the room and the suspect all lend to the officer's ability to gain a truthful statement from the suspect.

No single nonverbal communication cue can be used in detecting deception. When analyzing behavior it must be evaluated for timing, and it must be consistent.

These behavioral pattern when used in conjunction with other information, evidence, or statements are positive assurance that the subject is being deceitful. The police officer who can properly identify, interpret, and evaluate nonverbal communication will frequently obtain the truth.

Interpretation of nonverbal cues is one of the key elements needed by an officer. This technique often involves a good deal of time, effort, and practice in order to become proficient, but the investment is beneficial.

PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS

In my written report, I have analyzed many types of nonverbal behavior cues and established criteria for their detection by law enforcement officers. The report mainly used the descriptions of many authors, psychologists, and trained law enforcement officers. I feel it is necessary to include my personal observations and detection of nonverbal communication in the interrogation process.

An unidentified white female was found rolled up in a rug along an interstate highway. She was an apparent victim of homicide. The autopsy proved that the victim had died from asphyxiation by strangulation. Two young detectives had been assigned to the case. They put out a teletype asking for any information on a missing white female, approximately 27 years old, 5'2", 110 lbs., blonde hair, and blue eyes. A private investigator contacted our department and advised that he was looking for a subject that could match our description. The victim was identified as the person he was looking for.

It was determined that the victim worked for a local oil company and lived alone in a very nice apartment complex with security. She was very well liked and highly respected and her employer advised us that she did not have a particularly close relationship with any of the employees, but was good friends with everyone. No one knew if she had a boyfriend, as she had only worked there for a few months.

On investigation of her apartment, it was found that it was very clean and very tidy on first entry. The apartment manager advised that everyone in the complex had a small party the night before which the victim attended. When the victim was found missing, all party members had been interviewed and none of them were considered to be suspects.

At this point, the detectives came to a dead end. The case was then assigned to me. The detectives had done an excellent job gathering evidence and taking statements. It looked like there was no further leads. I started back-tracking further hoping to find a lead that the other detectives has missed. I learned that the victim's next door neighbor had been in the hospital for a nervous breakdown. I went to the hospital to speak with him, only to learn that he had been released a couple of days earlier. The apartment manager thought he was still in the hospital and was very surprised to learn differently. The manager decided to check his apartment to see if all was well. When the apartment was entered, it was apparent that he had moved without notifying the manager. The carpet was not clean and it was evident that a rug had been placed over the carpet in the living room at one time.

I checked his application when renting the apartment to get his next of kin, his parents, who happened to live out of state. I went to the subject's parent's home with another detective and found the subject. This subject had been interviewed by the previous detective and was believed to have nothing to do with the murder. The subject agreed to another interview.

We took the subject to the local police station. He was interviewed by another officer while I watched for every sign of nonverbal movement. This subject had everyone convinced that he had nothing to do with the homicide. But there were several things that led me to believe the subject could be lying, especially because of his nervous breakdown and stay in the hospital. Also the subject was last seen talking to the victim and the rug from the apartment was missing. When asked about the rug, the subject said that he threw it away, but could not remember where. The description of the rug given by the apartment manager was the same as the rug that the victim's

body had been found in and the one that was being held as evidence.

The subject was sticking to a very convincing story and the interviewer advised me that he felt the subject was telling the truth, but I was still not convinced. I decided to interview the subject myself. I started with a different approach than the previous officer. I started by asking the subject personal questions so that he would feel more at ease with me. What did he like to do? What were his hobbies? How was his family? What did his father do for a living? I discovered I hit a nerve when I mentioned his father. I then centered all my questions around his father. It was apparent that this subject had been constantly put down by his father and all he wanted to do was please his father.

After about 5 minutes of interviewing, the subject started to give in. He admitted that he had indeed killed the victim. He really liked her and had wanted to have sex with her. She had said no and began to put down just like his father had always done. He said that he could not take it anymore and had killed her and had sex with her. The subject was convicted of this homicide and is now serving time in the state penitentiary.

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